

GOVERNORS ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

MINUTES – Thursday, March 26, 2009

410 Willoughby Ave. Room 103

Juneau, Alaska

Call to Order:

Dave Hull, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Note was made a quorum was present.

Council Members in attendance:

ACEMS MEMBERS:

Dave Hull	Sherry Breaker	Roy Sursa	Danita Koehler	Ron Bowers
John Dickens	Don Hudson	Soren Threadgill	Steven O'Connor	
Karen O'Neill (excused because of illness)				
One vacant position				

State Section of IPEMS in attendance (part time, on phone and throughout the entire meeting):

Tim Bundy, Section Chief	Terry Olliff, Unit Manager	Raj Maskay, EMSC Manager
Nancy Barros, ACEMS staff	Judy Neary, Certification Specialist	Lee Parham, Training Manager
Deb Hull-Jilly, IP Manager	Maria Bailey, Travel Coordinator	Dr. Tariq Ali, Trauma Registry Manager

Visitors/Others:

Bill Hogan, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services
Ken Zafren, IPEMS Medical Director (phone)
Dell Smith, Operations Manager - ALMR (phone)
Jeff Tucker, Chief, North Star RD - ALMR (phone)
Frank Sacco, Trauma Committee Chair (phone)

EMS Regional staff in attendance:

Sue Hecks, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
Jane Schultz, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
Bobbi Leichty, Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.
Dan Johnson, Interior Region EMS Council, Inc.
Dave Potashnick, North Slope Borough Fire Department
Mike Motti, South East Regional Health Corporation EMS
Lewis Murray, Norton Sound Health Corporation, EMS
Aggie Jack, Maniilaq EMS
Dave Abbott, Copper River EMS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Dave Hull welcomed everyone to the council meeting. He shared that Dr. O'Neil is doing well in Nome now, was in hospital in Anchorage because of some respiratory issue she "picked up" while vacationing in Mexico. She is working part time and will call in if we need a quorum. If not, let's leave her alone to get well.

TRAVEL LOGISTICS:

Maria Bailey, the travel coordinator for ACEMS explained the need for travel receipts, invoices and at least one boarding pass from the airlines, turned in within 10 days of travel. ***If no receipts are turned in; no per diem will be given.*** The per diem, per day is \$60.

MEETING LOGISTICS:

- Dave Hull asked for review and approval of past minutes of THE October 9th 2008 meeting. Voted approved.
- Dave Hull asked for any agenda adjustments to this meeting. Requests were as follows:
 - + Non certified EMS – about 2:50 today's agenda
 - + Data base
 - + Certification data base
 - + Resolution on funding to support data base requirements
- **ETHICS**
Dave Hull, reminded everyone of the ethics policy and that one issue came up after the last ACEMS meeting, which was sent for review. The issue was if there was a violation where an ACEMS member could get CME'S plus paid to attend the annual symposium. The outcome was that there was no violation.

MOTION: Soren Threadgill made a motion for ACEMS to write a letter thanking Shelley Owens for her past efforts of supporting the ACEMS committee. John Dickens 2nd the motion.

- Dave requested a review of the past minutes. No corrections were suggested.

MOTION: Steve O'Connor motioned the minutes be approved. John Dickens 2nd the motion. Voted approved as written.

- A hard copy of the ACS review from November 2008 was handed out.
- Dave Hull reminded that Soren Threadgill and Ron Bowers were the Bylaws Committee and perhaps a look at adding the two new positions is added by the next ACEMS meeting. Those two positions are the Pediatrics position and Alaska State Fire Chief. Plus a closer look at the additional 3 new positions which the ACS review recommended. (2 legislatures and surgeon)
- Dave Hull thanked the IPEMS staff for helping to support the ACEMS committee and this meeting.
- Nancy Barros shared the correspondence log and that each member had access to it at any time. A list of all letters sent and received was noted since the last ACEMS meeting.

AIR MEDICAL:

Terry Olliff gave a report about Air Medical. Discussed consideration of the NTSB finding of "Conduct all flights with medical personnel on board in accordance with charter aircraft regulations; develop and implement flight risk evaluation programs; require formalized dispatch and flight-following procedures, including up-to-date weather information; install terrain awareness and warning systems on aircraft and night vision goggles be provided for night time flights. "

MOTION: Soren made a motion for ACEMS to write a letter with a recommendation to support the Air Medical committee recommendations. Don Hudson 2nd the motion. Vote – approved.

NEXT fall meeting agenda item: Air Medical Committee report/it all comes down to safety.

- Tim Bundy shared that all State employees must attend a class (which is ONLY held in August) to change policy or statutes. This means that all changes to the regulations are on hold.
- Steve O'Connor asked about past working group, can information come back to ACEMS?
- Sue Hecks shared a workshop will be organized, date pending.
- Dave Hull requested to be in group.

BREAK

INJURY PREVENTION:

Deb Hull-Jilly gave IPEMS report, via telephone. She shared the information was also on the State web page.

- Two reports on the ISPP website—AK VDRS Summary Report for 2003-2005; Alaska's Substance Abuse Epidemiologic Profile. Both reports are updated annually, AK VDRS in September (which will change to a five-year reporting format) and SAEP in April.
- Senior Medication Safety project—we are working with UAA-MPH and School of Nursing, Alaska Pharmacists Association, Section of Epidemiology-Immunization Program, ANTHC-Injury Prevention Directors. We are focusing on a brown bag assessment of over-the-counter and prescription medications in October to go along with Pharmacists Month and would like to partner with the 3 major pharmacies in the state—Fred Meyers, Safeway/Carrs, Wal-Mart. Next meeting is scheduled for April 15th and we are inviting EMS to participate.
- The fall and fall-related Injury Prevention Coalition—we have initiated a statewide coalition of prevention partners and other interested persons/organizations. IPEMS is initiating a web-site to host materials and links developed by partners to make the information available to communities and other activities needing assistance. This will link with the Senior Medication Safety project.

During the AK VDRS presentation at the EMS Symposium in November 2008, statistics noted that less than 50% of victims are sent thru the SMEO of which most are suicide victims. Of these, less than 50% were test for substances of abuse. It was requested by participants that we provide training on the collection of toxicological specimens that could be sent to the AK PHL for testing when the victim was not sent into the SMEO. We are currently working with the SMEO to develop and schedule the training and would like input from EMS and CHAPs.

NEXT fall agenda item: more information about Dr. Li seeking standardized data.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

- Bill Hogan, DHSS Commissioner shared with the council member's appreciation for EMS work and how EMS uses volunteers to expand their capacity to serve. He shared that an additional \$270,000 was requested through the budget process for EMS. He shared that in the past ACEMS was not as connected to the process and he would like to work more collaboratively; more closely and be better partners. He thanked all the work done so far.
- Dave Hull explained the work of EMS as a wooden wheel with spokes.
- Ron Bowers asked about possible funding through "stimulus funds." Bill Hogan explained how difficult that is to get clear definition from the feds. So far DHSS will accept a match change in Medicaid; maybe an additional \$4M for child care; don't know if there is any money allocated for EMS; Nancy Pelosi has a good web site explaining the stimulus package. Bill challenged ACEMS to find funds if they apply and seek them out.
- Ron Bowers brought up firefighter money from feds.
- Tim Bundy explained regions and communities can apply directly for the stimulus money and do not need to go through the State system.

HANDOUT #1 from Tim Bundy re: stimulus money.

TRAUMA COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Dr. Sacco called in and shared the following big news.
 1. John Coghill has the bill to support trauma system. It is a narrow focus, but a start. Bettye Davis will present next week. HB 168 (support uncompensated care and a cap) and HB 169 (the financial allocation of \$5,000,000 per year). This is an incentive for all hospitals to participate.

HANDOUT #2 from Nancy Barros re: copy of HB 168 and 169.

2. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) review was last November 2008. A lot of good was recognized; progress of having a state-wide trauma system was recognized as haphazard; and many recommendations were made.
3. Some public service awareness has been done as a result of the ACS review. It now is on the radar of the legislation and communities.

MOTION: Soren Threadgill made a motion to write a letter from ACEMS supporting the two bills (HB 168 and HB 169), to include a state-wide trauma system as well. Don Hudson 2nd the motion. Vote – approved.

4. The national report card was shared that Alaska got a D+ for the trauma system. Dr. Sacco thought that was skewed because it was based on Alaska Native Medical Center, which has the highest level of trauma care in the state, which is located in the largest population area of the state.....which the two don't meld. So if the Alaska Native Medical Center is not counted in the largest urban area the grade would and should be much lower.
 5. Training (RTDC) got "iced" out of the scheduled trauma training for Dillingham last fall.
 6. Regina Chenault is the new chair of Alaska American College of Surgeons.
 7. Thanks to ETT's impressive transfer of patient to Harbor View from Hydaburg.
 8. Still trying to put ETT courses in high schools.
 9. Thanked the ACEMS for its continued support in the trauma system effort.
- Tariq Ali gave the trauma review reports. An explanation of how the numbers are gathered, through e-codes and hospital discharge data was given. Tariq explain all the charts and graphs showing which areas appear to have increased. Alaska Natives appear to have a higher risk of suicide than automobile accidents. Rates may be higher because of the way the incidents are reported.

HANDOUT #3 from Tariq Ali re: data tables and charts.

- Bill Hogan suggested requesting a member of the Suicide Prevention group to attend the next ACEMS meeting to better understand the data and for that group to better understand the work of ACEMS.

REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE:

- The issue of EMS reporting abuse cases was brought up and the moral obligation to report. Discussion was made that Dr. Coopes in the past has suggested that EMS be required to report. Bill Hogan suggested that if this council feels that strongly about the issue to request it be addressed in writing.

MOTION: Ron Bowers made a motion to draft a letter (Dr. Koehler will draft) regarding the need to report abuse while doing the work of EMS. Steve O'Connor 2nd the motion. Voted – approved.

- Tim Bundy stated that poisoning incidents has increased, perhaps people having access to family prescribed drugs. Deb Hull-Jilly (on phone) stated there is a growing number of "undetermined."
- Tariq explained the age distribution has been adjusted to match the national guidelines. So comparisons can be better made in the future.

NEXT fall agenda item: Ask Suicide Program to attend and share information on TRI, falls among elderly; and violence. Diana Casco????

- Bill Hogan also suggested ACEMS get acquainted and connected with Brain Injury Network, Commission on Ageing and Domestic Violence.
- Tim Bundy shared that the top 6 leading causes of injuries equal 71% of ALL injuries in the state. Suicide attempts are different among Native Alaskans and non Native Alaskans.
- Deb Hull-Jilly shared the partnership between DBH and DPH is very productive and provides a new avenue of collaboration.
- Ron Bowers asked Tariq if Image Trend has made it easier to collect and organize the data. Tariq shared that he can modify the data. And explained the difference between "cut" vs. deliberate or accidental. Sherry Breaker asked if "cut" was behavioral or laceration? Tariq shared it is all about how it is reported. It is based on the e-code presented.
- Ron Bower asked if the data was showing subsequent or only one person. Tariq said "one person only."

CODE BLUE:

Bobbi Leichty, Chair of Code Blue, gave Code Blue report:

- Always leave \$100,000 of State Capital funds in "account" for emergency or special needs which may come up.
- In the 10th year – always focusing and refocusing on needs. At times a cap is put on a specific piece of equipment.
- Over the past 10 years about \$17M worth of EMS equipment has been shared and pushed out to rural parts of the State.

- Code Blue funds are intended for basic essential EMS equipment.
- Also seek USDA (requires complicated), Denali Commission and Rassmason Funds.
- Share information and resources with regions/help each other through the process. Not competitive, try to share resources with each other for the good of the whole state.
- Spent the Day at the Legislature February 4, 2009 (Aggie Jack, Brian Lefferts, and Bobbi Leichty).
- Aggie Jack and Bobbi Leichty went to Governor's office and did her blood pressure while engaging in 40 minutes of face to face time. Share Code Blue and the positive effect it has had on the whole state; Grow-Your-Own emphasis; shared new information were topics of discussion.
- The Governor asked if anything in "stimulus" package could help EMS.

Dave Hull shared that Code Blue working group is the king-pin of EMS work.

Dr. Koehler asked if the need to go back to basic with the high cost of airwave and pre-hospital equipment? Bobbi Leichty shared that if new equipment is requested, it gets re-evaluated each meeting and often time's caps are put on as to how much Code Blue money will be spent.

TRAINING:

Kathy McLeron gave training report.

HANDOUT #4 from Kathy McLeron re: EMS training committee activity.

BUDGET:

- Tim Bundy reported budget for Regions, passed the House with a \$267,000 increase, so far. EMS and IP grant together with a 5.4% increase. Regions have done the logic model training and plan to focus on core processes or functions. Sue Hecks will explain later in detail. There has been an additional ask of \$190,000 for communication. The RFP will be out next week to do an assessment of communication that does exist through out the state from T.V. channels or radios. Regulation changes must go through mandated state training – which only happens in August each year. We will get more state staff to attend this year. Tim is now doing all grants because of low staff. Aurora has 15% of required data.
- Dave Hull asked about travel and if ACEMS gets the 5 new members as suggested how that will affect the cost to travel. Tim explained that the average cost to travel, per member, per year is \$3500. ACEMS does not have a budget, not funded. That will be an increase of \$17,500 each year.
- ACEMS needs to make sure that the powers that be understand that more money must be budgeted for the additional members.

CERTIFICATION:

Judy Neary gave certification report (attached) with the numbers of certification by region, by level (EMT I, II and III); with explanation of delays. She suggested there is always room for improvement. Some ideas include auditing CME's and looking at the examination process.

HANDOUT #5 from Judy Neary re: state certification data.

LUNCH

SYMPOSIUM:

Lee Parham gave report. EMS symposium, November 12 – 14th. Captain Cook is where the rooms are held.

Speakers request is out for symposium to: National Association of EMS Officials; Washington Update newsletter; The Daily Dispatch; on Southern Region EMS Council website and CHEMS web site.

No theme for symposium – don't want to lock into one area.

HANDOUT #6 from Lee Parham re: symposium planning.

TRAINING/NATIONAL REGISTER:

- Lee Parham shared that Pearson Vue has seriously considered UAS, Juneau for another location. Capital Fire and Rescue paid for the \$450 testing equipment required.
- Terry Olliff reported the state is moving toward a national register. There are only 5 places in whole state which can test.
- Bobbi Leichty brought up that Alaska has always deviated from the national registrar BECAUSE Alaska does not fit the model. Most important is the transport. National standard is not the only model – not satisfied with the National Registry.
- Dave Abbott, from Copper River, stated that the National Registry is mostly for urban – not against it just that it does not fit Alaska.
- Terry Olliff stated for the record that he wants a hybrid. Not sure at this time what is best model. Looking for trained staff to turn test around.

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH:

Dave Potashnick gave report:

- 25 courses accomplished
- Contracted with Beacon Occupational Health Services to add EMS courses and EMS/firefighter physicals (Anchorage-based)
- A grant is paying for EMS and firefighter physicals for all providers.
- All 7 outlying villages will have new ambulance by the end of the year
- 02 working, some compressor problems but resolved because there was some stockpiling of equipment which helped to replace what was needed. Simple to operate.

EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR:

Dr. Zafren gave report (via phone):

- Always available for EMS questions and support
- Will organize and coordinate the clinical track at the symposium. Now planning the 2009 track.
- Expanded scope still on the table.
- EMSC on radar
- ACS review report – need public awareness
 - ACEMS critical part of trauma system
 - Reviewed in report the EMS process
 - Increase for membership for ACEMS (EMSC permanent position, plus dedicated surgeons)

Dr. Koehler asked if we really need two surgeons couldn't one person hold both of those suggested positions?

Dr. Zaffen stated this should probably be ACEMS decision.

- Comfort One – many states are looking at another model.
- Tim attended the same meeting on pre-hospital data and there are plans to continue to provide computers (units) to enter data.
- Next week going to Seattle to the Swedish Neuroscience Institute to give Grand rounds regarding barriers to accessing medical care in Alaska.
- Harbor View continues to support Alaska's SE trauma needs.

ALMR update

Jeff Tucker and Del Smith called in. Discussion on AMLR:

- AMLR is not supposed to be a state-wide system – only a component of a state system.
- Only effective for those on the road system. The islands and small villages, especially in SE may still need the legacy system, because AMLR will not work there.
- \$18 user fee for subscriber units. Legislation was introduced not AMLR.

John Dickens asked if there will be time when the state troopers will use ALMR?

- Can only go where state infrastructure (microwave) is – in the future satellite is a possibility. New technology coming up all the time, don't know what the future will bring.
- Currently the DOD has 5,804; none DOD has 529; locally 2,968; Kenai has 382.
- P25 is a compatible radio

Tim shared that there is \$190,000 to improve EMS communication system to include the legacy system.

HB 81 – interest sparked because of actual dollar amount is attached.

GOALS/LOGIC MODEL:

- Tim discussed “Goals document” 2000. Not only is it an old document it also is so comprehensive that it covers every thing and would not be wise to use. It is a good document but perhaps too broad to use for goals. In the near future we want to use the logic model to focus on selected core areas.
- Dan Johnson asked if through the logic model, do we have to address each core or only those goals which are selected? Tim responded only those goals selected through the logic model will be used.

NEXT fall agenda item: The status of the goals selected through the logic model.

- Tim stated we are moving toward the E-grant process, where the payments should be quicker; reports will be “measurements”; looking for progress; reduce the amount of reporting; and it should fit the logic model process.
- Southern Region reported (Sue Hecks) will have more technically training workshops on the logic model.
- North Slope Borough (Dave Potashnick) are applying to existing 15 goals.
- Tim Bundy said it was okay if they do not apply, as this year is continuation grant and does not require the use of the logic model, but it may be good to test it out before it is required for the next year.

FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL:

Soren Threadgill reported:

- The memorial will be near 5th and A Street (new location)
- A request has been made to add EMS lost in duty
- The cost is \$100,000, the cost for EMS to be a part of this memorial is not determined. Dave Hull will look into it.
- Looking for donations.
- Still looking for a more permanent place for the plaque.

UNCERTIFIED SERVICES:

Bobbi Leichty shared a complex situation where a private for profit service is creating some transport/transfer issues with the first responder services, and causing some issues of responsibilities, transfer/transport protocols and scope of service.

- Major question: ***Can a non-certified first responder service provide treatment and transportation of a patient in their own community to a higher level of medical facility or are they required to transfer the care of the patient to a certified service when available??***

Discussion:

Terry Olliff stated: Can't request monetary gain as First Responders

Agreed on 6 points which he sent out in a memo 3/25/09

- Communities in the state of Alaska have the authority to choose the Level of service.
- The Alaska Regulations and Statutes do not prohibit First Responders Services from responding to a call, and transporting.
- Non-certified transport services are not prohibited by Alaska state regulation or statutes from responding and transporting patients. Personnel must maintain training and certifications to the level of service that is provided by the service. Those services providing First Responder service are not eligible to charge fees, but can accept unsolicited donations for services.

- EMS equipment that is purchased with State funds may not be transferred to another service provider without express permission by the Alaska State EMS Unit.
- Alaska state law or regulations do not prohibit services that are transporting patients, from entering or crossing political boundary's to get to a medical provider or facility.
- Alaska state law or regulations do not require services to transfer patient care from one service to another.

Can one service transport through the geographic area of another service?

Where is Continuity of care?

There is precedence in from Girdwood to Anchorage (Don Hudson)

A paid service can not expect to have or use Code Blue equipment (Terry Olliff)

If all First Responder units need to be regulated, who and how would it be done? (Bobbi Leichty)

The AFD had similar situation in which we sought OIG counsel. Their opinion had ramifications which may apply in this case. For further information, the ruling can be found on the web.

For profit want to do it all.....changes in the making (Mike Motti)

Certified or non certified, must cover the 6 points (Terry Olliff)

\$1,200 too much to charge for transport, people will refuse service (John Dickens)

State may want to consider requiring some level of need of service for licensure – certificate of need (Dave Potashnick)

This may only be considered a business decision, and at this time ACEMS won't take a stance (Dave Hull).

NEXT fall agenda item: Certified EMS service vs. non certified transporting and working in same geographical area. (Dave Hull)

DATA BASE FOR INSTRUCTORS:

- Roy Sursa explained how in the old system it was easier to look up on the web – now valuable staff time must be used.
- Dave Potashnick brought up the issue to unburden the State and go to an easier to use system. Why isn't happening? We have gone from a somewhat functioning system to a totally non functioning system.
- Terry Olliff suggested we "approve" or "certify" one person in each region to view the system, the same as what Judy Neary sees.
- Roy Sursa said, everyone should be able to view only. We must have access. Roy suggested he be able to speak to the State computer person to clarify the need. With his expertise he would be willing to help.
- Ron Bowers asked why we need another "gate-keeper?"
- Terry Olliff shared that 18 months ago the State got a new computer system and perhaps that is the reason.

MOTION: Don Hudson made a motion to write a letter to request the web page for EMS be updated, specifically the area for instructor certification because of the high importance. Steve O'Connor 2nd motion. Voted – approved.

RESOLUTION

Ron Bowers handed out and reported on the draft resolution:

- Ron handed out the draft resolution to support Image Trend and mandatory data gathering for 216 EMS agencies to receive financial support so they can do their mandatory reporting. So far only 15% are reporting. The volunteer EMS units need computers and training to meet this mandatory requirement. This resolution is asking for the funds needed.
- Tim Bundy shared who is connected to Image Trend now and reporting. If the service is a certified service it must, by state statute provide data.
- Louis Murray, Nome reported they are just starting.
- Dan Johnson, Interior – don't do training
- Sue Hecks, Southern Region, Jane is point person for data; did a complete computer upgrade in office; will help small communities.
- Bobbi Leichty, SE Region, has units not connected to high speed, can only use dial up. Will probably provide run sheets.

- Ron Bowers, suggested that state may help support high speed internet.
- Could training be held at the next symposium?
- Tim Bundy shared the field bridge licensure is \$1,000 each if obtained through the state.
- Ron Bowers estimated \$800 for computer X 2 = \$1,600 plus \$1,000 for field bridge = \$2,600 total per site or unit.
- Bobbi Leichty reminded the group that the real need is “hands-on, at location” training.
- Ron Bowers reminded that this is a prime time and opportunity for stimulus money.
- Bobbi Leichty suggested adding the need for trauma registrar to the package.
- Must get legislature to accept.
- Add “stimulus” money to resolution. Hawker’s aid is the point-person on House side for stimulus money.

HANDOUT #7 from Ron Bowers re: copy of draft resolution.

MOTION: Ron Bowers made the motion to accept resolution 109. Soren Threadgill 2nd the motion.

Dave Hull suspended discussion for first thing Friday morning.

Meeting adjourned 5:05 p.m.

GOVERNORS ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

MINUTES – Thursday, March 26, 2009

410 Willoughby Ave. Room 103

Juneau, Alaska

DAY 2

Call to Order:

Dave Hull, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Council Members in attendance:

ACEMS MEMBERS:

Dave Hull	Sherry Breaker	Roy Sursa	Danita Koehler	Ron Bowers
John Dickens	Don Hudson	Soren Threadgill	Steven O'Connor	
Karen O'Neill (excused because of illness)				
One vacant position				

State Section of IPEMS in attendance (part time, on phone and throughout the entire meeting:

Tim Bundy, Section Chief	Terry Olliff, Unit Manager	Raj Maskay, EMSC Manager
Nancy Barros, ACEMS staff	Judy Neary, Certification Specialist	Lee Parham, Training Manager
Deb Hull-Jilly, IP Manager	Maria Bailey, Travel Coordinator	Dr. Tariq Ali, Trauma Registry Manager

Visitors/Others:

Jay Butler, Department of Public Health Medical Director
Chuck Kuhns, Program Director for UAF Paramedic Program (phone)

EMS Regional staff in attendance:

Bobbi Leichty, Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.
Angela Johnston, Southeast Region
Dan Johnson, Interior Region EMS Council, Inc.
Dave Potashnick, North Slope Borough Fire Department
Mike Motti, South East Regional Health Corporation EMS
Lewis Murray, Norton Sound Health Corporation, EMS
Aggie Jack, Maniilaq EMS
Dave Abbott, Copper River EMS

WELCOME

Dave Hull called meeting to order 8:35 a.m.

RESOLUTION:

Dave Hull brought up Resolution 109 which yesterday's meeting ended with.

- Discussed chain of command for ACEMS to Medical Director, Jay Butler; Commissioner Department of Health and Social Services, Bill Hogan; Governor, Sarah Palin.
- June 1st is the deadline to begin use of the mandatory state data entry system.
- Ron Bowers re-explained draft Resolution 109 and gave an estimate of \$6,000 cost per squad with a total cost of \$600,000.

- Bobbi Leichty brought up there is no cost for the Aurora system. The greater need is for hands-on training to small villages.
- There was some discussion on how many squads need this assistance.
- Tim shared there might be other monies from the stimulus to include the Intelligence transport; 402/408 monies from DOT.
- There is a concern for the small squads which need the money for the bridge software and computers.
- Ron Bowers confirmed that “training” was included in the draft resolution.
- Dave Hull wanted to know if this might be a “carrot” for uncertified units to become certified units?

MOTION (re-made): Ron Bowers made the motion to accept resolution 109 and to attach a letter to Governor via Commissioner, via Jay Butler, with some adjustments by the executive committee. Soren Threadgill 2nd the motion. Voted – approved.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

MOTION: Steve O’Connor made a motion to officially change Dr. Zafren’s status on the training committee from official member to ex effico, on call, as needed. Don Hudson, 2nd the motion. Voted – approved.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

Interior – Dan Johnson

- MAST updated – lost military helicopter support because of the demand in war in Iraq. Evergreen contracted by Army now, and can’t do civilian service. Air Guard doing civilian service – no serious negative outcomes.
- Code Blue – currently on Phase IX, going well. Since the beginning of Code Blue the Interior Region has received \$3M in capitol improvements. Every village in this region has impacted. This has been a tremendously successful and rewarding process.
- Training – the Interior Region serves as a representative of the American Heart Association which keeps everyone busy, increase of sales and rentals. Now adding advanced facility to do PAL and ACLS. Training coordinator, Dave Rockney North Star Borough trained
 - 150 basic
 - 100 refresher
 - 15 instructors
- Regional symposium next Thursday (April 2nd) which will be used as an educational opportunity, members meeting and awards ceremony. Great staff working hard.
- Delta Junction
 - Has had EMS for a very long time.
 - Local doctor, Dr. Andreason had been the local supporter, and strong advocate of EMS especially keeping it going during low times of activity.
 - Past year Dr. Andreason , through the local city council has requested an annual stipend of \$30,000.
 - We did some research and found most communities don’t get charged for a doctor doing this service.
 - Certification not necessary to respond
 - Certification is required to bill
 - Discussion was made on the ethics, value and outcomes of this process.

Dr. Koehler shared:

Fee for service request by a medical director. “My objection to the sititutation that occurred in the Interior earlier this year is that ethical conflicts of interest did not enter into the public record and that other small communities will be faced with similar requests.. My recommendations are: The medical director acts as an ‘agent of the State of Alaska’ and is held to State ethical policies. Future requests from medical directors should be vetted for ethical ‘conflicts of interest’ or fee for service requests. This would not prohibit the director from asking but it would bring to the record if the request is free from conflicts.

Conflicts to consider in the rural community setting:

Does the medical director also provide medical care to the person(s) who vote (physician-patient relationship)?
Does the medical director have financial relationships with the volunteer EMTT's (employer – employee relationship)?
Does the medical director have a business that benefits from the states volunteer EMS service?

Dave Hull requested that Dan take back to the staff and volunteers appreciation for all the good work they do.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICAL DIRECTOR:

Dave Hull introduced the Public Health Medical Director, Jay Butler.

- Jay Butler shared his interest in quality of health care to include pre-hospital. He said he had spoken with the Commissioner, Bill Hogan and was glad he had an opportunity to meet with ACEMS yesterday. Jay explained the new (formed December 2008) Alaska Health Care Commission, executive director Deb Erickson. (Nancy Barros will establish a line of communication.) There are 7 voting members and 3 other members representing the executive branch. The top 5 priorities are;
 - Define role of consumer
 - Access of consumer to primary health care Medicaid patients
 - Workforce shortage
 - Healthcare technology
 - Establish Health Care Commission in statute
- How does Commission relate to ACEMS and Trauma Review Committee?
 - Purpose: To assist the Governor and legislature to improve health care of Alaskans
- Where do you see ACEMS as related to this Commission? (Dave Hull) Jay responded not sure what form it will be.
- Dave Hull reminded Jay Butler that ACEMS is still looking forward to a strong trauma system.
- Jay suggested the Commission be cc'd on letters & resolutions so the Commission will know what ACEMS is doing.
- Ron Bowers asked who the Commission reports to? Jay was not sure, but thought it would be the Governor and the State legislature.
- Jay suggest ACEMS include him in all communication as well.
- The Alaska Health Care Commission has made a commitment to NOT get into supporting or not supporting any specific bill or legislation.
 Discussed the two trauma bills;
 HB 168 – to establish mechanism
 HB 169 – to appropriate the fund which may include Disproportionate Share monies. How we will pay.
 Jay will be the one testifying on these two bills. At this time ACEMS does not have a role of supporting or committing on these two bills. ASHNA will be opposing this bill.
- Dave Hull stated that ACEMS wants to remain A-political & have a focus on representing EMS as a whole; to represent all responders; the big picture; & to share communication & positions with the Alaska Health Care Commission.
- Dr. Koehler shared that some 911 calls are not responded to because of lack of funding and support.
 - Jay Butler shared that in a tight financial environment some cuts will always need to be made.
- Dave Hull asked if the ACS review recommendation of having 3 more additional positions to the ACEMS committee plus the two others that were voted on (Peds and Air Medical) how that would be funded? I.e. the travel expense because it becomes an unfunded mandate.
 - Jay Butler suggested focusing on priorities.
- Jay Butler shared his career background.
- Bobbi Leichty asked Jay what he knows of the stimulus money – he shared how complicated it is, but ACEMS might want to write a letter to Senator Davis with an interest in health information and how it would be used. If this is done Jay said he would forward to the Governor.

NEXT fall agenda item: More information on the Health Care Commission and how best to share information back and forth.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

Manniliq - Aggie Jack shared:

- Now doing quality calendars
- Doing some re-structuring – might have cuts coming up
- Blizzards on-going – STORY – ambulance call with 0 visibility, took 2 hours, needed a front end loader to blaze a path to get to the house, and used a rescue sled (brought with Code Blue money). First time business and corporation have had to close because of weather.
- Medivacs down this year from last – 600 last year, 400 this year
- Doing well with billing – last year \$3.1M
- Using Image Trend, works well.

REGIONAL - Bobbi Leichty gave report because Sue Hecks had to go to the airport.

- Two days of meetings, Monday and Tuesday March 23rd and 24th
- Sue is the Chair and had to leave, trying to get out of Juneau.
- Discussed “regulation” project with Terry Olliff – can’t change state statute
- Grant RFP – uncertainty of timing
- FY 10 – continuation. Concern about not having enough time
- Aurora discussed
- Lee Parham shared training updates.
- Judy Neary gave certification report – which shows the instructors need to be educated; instructors don’t feel supported by the state.
- AMLR – not funded by Code Blue or State money – keep legacy system.
- EMS class online with UA Sitka – good for leadership and development; significant cost; not enough people signed up; if offered again will need to consider scholarships in a more timely manner.
- Recruitment and Retention – big issue
- Volunteering limited because of economy.
- High need to connect with community administrators – share a menu of worth for EMS volunteers, let them decide what level needed for their community.
- Some ideas to help with recruitment and retention of volunteers are:
 - Offer a tax exemption through the municipality
 - Reprint brochures “While You Were Sleeping” and “Hero’s Wanted”
 - Consider AmeriCorps
 - Look into a contribution plan/pool of money – worth/value of volunteer....savings bond.
 - Offer an insurance pool for catastrophic health care.
- Reviewed EMS Core Goals – first step in anticipation of future grant. Went through 15 points.
- Working toward streamlined reporting

Tim Bundy recognized Bobbi and her staff helping in State office with certification and testing processes. This was very much appreciated.

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL – Bobbi Leichty shared:

- 25th Annual Symposium coming up (17th and 18th of April 2009) – super staff support
 - Great partnerships with search and rescue
 - Described class content/titles
 - \$10,000 in scholarship money to attend.
- SEREMS helped state office with exams and skills sheet, considered it a good investment

- ATLS course will be in Juneau – Spring 2010
- Wilderness Survival will be May 15, 16 and 18, 2009..
- Engaging in better communication with small communities, public opinion clarified.
- Hydaburg trained 14 ETT's, community has a new Code Blue ambulance and directly after the class it was put to use by transporting victims of a car accident to the clinic.

Tim explained RFP in next few weeks coming out to identify communication (T.V., internet, radio, etc.). The result will help communities to leverage for more funds.

NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION/NOME – Lewis Murray shared:

- Working on Phase VI to VII Code Blue. Obtaining a track vehicle for Gambell because of the deep gravel. Need one dozen men to transport person to air strip (STORY), they trade off carrying the gurney because of the deep gravel. (STORY)
- All other villages support the needs of Gambell, by not requesting this type of equipment for themselves.
- 4 million pounds of steel coming to Nome for the construction of new hospital. Will come on 1st barge. Will use to retro fit boxes/storage units for transport equipment storage.
- There was a most recent emergency landing near Nome and it was determined that the locator beams were not working because it sent people more than 5 miles away from the site. If not for the good work of volunteers – it might have had a much different outcome. (STORY)
- Recruiting for a EMT trainer.

COPPER RIVER EMS – Dave Abbott reported:

- Over 500 road miles

HANDOUT #8 from Dave Abbott re: map showing CREMS coverage area.

- 2 ambulances
- McCarthy road has no ambulance service because of its condition.
- All military helicopters have been sent to war/Iraq – now there is no back up
- 1 FTE/1 part time
- About 30 essential volunteers – fluctuates with seasons
- Dr. Hudson is the medical director
- (STORY) – 13 person bus accident – took about 2 hours from time of accident to hospital admittance in Anchorage. Gave report to Sally Abbott, at state. Accident date around June 1, 2008. Crossroads Medical Center got geared up to help support incident, but they got by-passed, when patients were taken to Anchorage.
- Not on AMLR – support legacy system.
- Currently fund raising for new ambulance. Raised \$60,000 so far.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION :

Cindy was very sick and sent a lengthy report , giving information about Alaska Emergency Medical Services Optimization (AKEMSO). This program is to focus on collecting geo-coded data on highway accidents and resulting injury levels, analyzing data to develop patterns and distribution for injury crashes, and recommending ways to improve placement and management of emergency medical service resources in their response to care crashes.

HANDOUT # 9 from Cindy Cashen (dropped off) re: AKEMSO.

- Tim Bundy discussed the ADOT report and potential for future funding partnership.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

YKHC – Lee Parham delivered report for Brian Lefferts (not present)

HANDOUT # 10 from Brian Lefferts via Lee Parham re: YKHC activities.

BILLING/911 ISSUE

- Discussed billing issues.
- Ketchikan uses System Design. \$20 per call or \$250.
- Need help (Bobbi Leichty) how to get compensation from 911 charges? Who gets those funds?
- Do communities chose where their 911 calls go to?
- John Dickens said Governor Palin has a point person who focuses on 911.
- Ron Bowers said the Commission sets rate/regulation is required for public hearings to set rates.
- Tim Bundy said administrative PSAP grant coming out designated person in – too busy to apply. Only 7 designated places in state.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE FOR CHILDREN (EMSC)

Raj Maskay gave report because Mark Johnson, the Chair - out of state.

CODE BLUE – Raj Maskay.

HANDOUT #11 from Raj Maskay re: EMSC accomplishments and goals.

STORIES

- Dr. Koehler suggested to put a book together of EMS stories and thought the Copper River story would be good to add.
- Sherry Breaker shared the 1992 story posted in a newspaper.

HANDOUT #12 from Sherry Breaker re: Nome story of nurse bush transportation.

- The Gambell story of people carrying the patient to airstrip.
- The Code Blue boat in Pelican would be a good story.
- Bobbi Leichty said SEREMS will be publishing their stories for sale to raise funds to help support their training scholarship fund.

LEGISLATION

- ILCOR – to be able to keep current with medical standards. This subject has been brought up several times in the past. Shelley Owens shared with Dave Hull in the recent past that it needs to find another bill to attach it to. Tim Bundy stated it has not so far found another bill to attach to.

HANDOUT #13 from Nancy Barros re: past communication history on ILCOR issue (2 letters).

MOTION: Ron Bowers made a motion to write a letter to get ILCOR attached to a bill in this legislative session. John Dickens 2nd the motion. Soren Threadgill will write letter. Voted – approved.

- Dave Hull discussed mandatory sprinkler systems in home HB 202 and SB 129.
- Tim Bundy discussed HB 151 – boating safety and training subject.
 - AK will receive federal monies
 - Between 2002 and 2006 drowning was largest fatality in AK
 - Since 2002 there has been a 20% reduction in this fatality probably because of Kids Don't Float program.
 - \$1.1 M received
 - 515 life vest sites around the state.

MOTION: Steve O'Connor made the motion to write a letter showing full support of HB 151 and the promotion to continue the program. John Dickens 2nd the motion. Voted – approved.

TRAVEL LOGISTICS

- Maria Bailey reviewed reimbursement process again and added that any extend travel needed for additional travel expenses caused by the volcano or weather would be covered.....keep receipts and boarding passes. Communicate with staff when you have been delayed. Some issues of council members having to pay for hotel. Maria apologized for that inconvenience, it should not have been that way. It was set up so the state would pay the hotel directly.

- Sherry Breaker said it would be good for new members to know about the rules of reimbursement when they first come on-board, she missed out all per diem from the last meeting because she was not aware she needed to keep receipts. Dave Hull mentioned he has never gotten per Diem, did not know that was allowed.
- Nancy Barros indicated she would put a “welcome packet” together for next new members. (Add policies on travel, ethics, meeting dates, past couple years of minutes, member list etc.)

INTERNSHIPS BETWEEN PARAMEDICS AND NURSES

Chuck Kuhn’s, program director for UAF Paramedic Program in Fairbanks called in and described the issue of conflict between paramedics required internship (290 hours) with nurses and State Nursing Board taking the stance of not supervising the paramedics.

- Chuck requested that ACEMS help him with this process by
 - Getting an official legal opinion from AG’s office
 - Advocating for a unified licensure board for paramedics and nurses.
- The negative prejudice and division is hindering patient care for the future.
- The national organization said Alaska has the worst association of conflict between nurses and paramedics. Chuck will give ACEMS that report...to use the same language.
- The state of Alaska’s Nurses Board web site was brought up and it clearly states that if a nurse helps a paramedic the board can take the nurses licenses away.
- Many nurses want to help but feel threatened if they help.

MOTION: Steve O’Connor made a motion to write a letter to AG’s office for a legal interpretation regarding this issue of a division between paramedics training required and nurses threatened to support the required training. And another letter written to the State Medical Board asking the same question. Don Hudson 2nd the motion. Voted – approved.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- Nancy Barros shared that Steve O’Connor and Soren Threadgill are now official approved for their re-appointment by the Governor.

HANDOUT #14 from Nancy Barros re: website statement showing the official re-appointment of Steve and Soren.

- Dave Hull announced that Skip Richards is the new chair of the PIE committee.
- Sherry Breaker indicated the next fall meeting will be her last, she is moving back to Oklahoma.
- A request to find new council members was shared; one for the vacant ER nurse position. If someone is interested to make contact with Boards and Commissions and/or Nancy Barros to understand the process.
- Dave Hull asked about the official approval of the two new positions – Peds and Air Medical. Nancy will check on that and get back to the Exec. Committee.

NEXT MEETING

Teleconference scheduled for Exec. Committee April 9th and June 11th at 9 a.m.
Awards generally are due Sept. 1 each year.

MOTION: Ron Bowers made a motion to have next Fall ACEMS meeting October 1 & 2, in Anchorage. Don Hudson 2nd the motion. Voted – approved.

MOTION: Dave Hull made the motion to adjourn meeting. 4:06 p.m. Don Hudson 2nd the motion.

APPROVED: _October 2, 2009_____ RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED: ____N.Barros_____